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9 SEP 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, DD/S&T

SUBJECT : Draft of Historical Article on CORONA

REFERENCE : [] 18 August 1971

1. As requested in Reference, Subject draft has been reviewed by this Office and our comments are submitted herein. In sum, our position is that we oppose publication of the article at the SECRET level, feeling it hazardous both to sensitive information and to on-going programs.

2. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no change in the stated policies of NSAM 156, among which is the stipulation that "The U.S. should not, at this time, publicly disclose the status, extent, effectiveness or operational characteristics of its reconnaissance program". This policy was bolstered by the Presidential Directive of 1960, which further adjured against revelation of the fact of reconnaissance. Whether or not this policy should be changed in any fashion is a question of moment under study by COMIREX and we would suggest awaiting the results of that body's deliberations prior to addressing this facet of national policy.

3. Additionally, it is apparent that this entire question is of great interest to the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office and we suggest that the DD/S&T or his designee might wish to bring this proposal to his attention for comment and discussion.

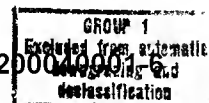
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towards "releasing"
classified material.*

[]
Howard J. Osborn
Director of Security

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NRO review(s) completed.

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